

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 ERDA-05 FEA-01 OES-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /113 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9561

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

ALL EC CAPITALS 1068

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, EEC, IAEA, TP, EG, CV, MZ, BC, TS, MT

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL SEPT 15-16: HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE SECOND DAY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN THEIR CONCLUDING COUNCIL SESSION PRIOR TO THE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING (REPORTED SEPT 16), THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES UNDER THE EC'S "GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH;" AGREED TO DECIDE AT THEIR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING OCT 6-7 THE FINANCIAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHREK COUNTRIES; DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE IMPLEMENTATION AND RATIFICATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION; AND CONSIDERED FURTHER THE QUESTION OF LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

2. MALTA: THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE AMOUNT OF AID TO BE
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EXTENDED TO MALTA. THE COMMISSION ORIGINALLY PROPOSED 21 MILLION

UNITS OF ACCOUNT OVER FIVE YEARS; THE MALTESE COUNTERED WITH A REQUEST FOR 30 MILLION U.A. AS A RESULT OF SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MALTESE, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES SAID HE THOUGHT A COMPROMISE COULD BE REACHED IN THE RANGE OF 26 TO 28 MILLION U.A. THE FRENCH AND THE UK OBJECTED TO EXCEEDING THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION, SAYING IT WOULD MEAN ADDITIONAL BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT AND FURTHER, THAT ANY INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE TO MALTA WOULD BE LIKELY TO PROVOKE SIMILAR DEMANDS FROM OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. THE GERMANS SAID THEY ARE PREPARED TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO MALTA PROVIDED THAT NO MORE THAN 2 MILLION U.A. WAS ADDED TO THE COMMUNITY BUDGET FOR THE COMING YEAR. (OUR ROUGH CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN THE MALTESE RECEIVING 26 MILLION U.A. OVER FIVE YEARS.) NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED AND THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) ARE TO CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER.

3. TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL: IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR REVIEW OF THE EC'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED THE EFFECTS ON TUNISIA OF THE APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT DECREASE IN EC IMPORTS OF TUNISIAN OLIVE OIL RESULTING FROM THE COMMUNITY'S RESTRICTIVE ACTION EARLIER THIS SUMMER. NO SOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED AS TO HOW TO COMPENSATE THE TUNISIANS AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ASKED THAT THE QUESTION BE TAKEN UP AT THE NEXT AGRICULTURE COUNCIL (SEPT 22-23) PRIOR TO THEIR OWN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER AT THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON OCT 6-7.

4. MASHREK: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE PREPARATION OF THE EC MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE MASHREK COUNTRIES AND AGREED THAT A FINAL DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION ELEMENT BE MADE AT THEIR OCT COUNCIL.

5. LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH EGYPT: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH EGYPT, FOCUSING ON THE COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CONTRACTS AND ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EC IN CONNECTION WITH ARTICLE 113 OF THE TREATY. GERMANY AND THE UK WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXPRESSED CONCERN AT POSSIBLE US REACTION TO SUCH CONTRACTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE AGAIN AT THEIR OCT MEETING AFTER OBTAINING OPINIONS FROM THE EC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS AND THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE WHICH IS MEETING IN VENICE LATER THIS WEEK.

6. BOTSWANA BEEF: UK REPRESENTATIVE HATTERSLY URGED THAT HIS COLLEAGUES FURTHER EXAMINE THE SITUATION REGARDING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MARKETS FOR BEEF FROM BOTSWANA. HATTERSLY REPEATED EARLIER BRITISH CONCERN REGARDING THE DEPENDENCE OF BOTSWANA ON ITS BEEF EXPORTS AND THE SEVERITY OF BOTSWANA'S CURRENT

ECONOMIC SITUATION. COREPER AND THE COMMISSION ARE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND ARE TO REPORT TO THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL.

7. RATIFICATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION: EC COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, CLAUDE CHEYSSON, FORMALLY URGED THE MINISTERS TO SPEED UP THEIR NATIONAL PROCESSES FOR RATIFYING THE LOME CONVENTION NOTING THAT OF THE EC COUNTRIES ONLY DENMARK HAS DONE SO TO DATE.

8. NEW APPLICANTS FOR ACP MEMBERSHIP: CHEYSSON PROPOSED THE ADOPTION OF AN INTERIM PROCEDURE, VALID UNTIL THE LOME CONVENTION ENTERS INTO EFFECT, GOVERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES IN THE ACP GROUP. SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR ACP STATUS. CHEYSSON SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE PROCEDURES IDENTICAL TO THOSE LAID DOWN IN THE LOME CONVENTION. COREPER IS TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS IN GREATER DETAIL.

9. EURATOM-IEA COOPERATION AGREEMENT: WITHOUT DISCUSSION THE MINISTERS APPROVED THE TEXT OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN EURATOM AND THE IAEA PROVIDING FOR REGULAR CONTACTS ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. (COPIES OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE POUCHED TO USIAEA AND EUR/RPE-SENS.) GREENWALD

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